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Arson arrest made after apartment fire in Havelock displaces 18 tenants: OPP

By **Greg Davis** • **Global News**
Posted April 24, 2024 10:56 am
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Eighteen on following t., on Tuesday evening.

Peterborough County OPP say around 7 p.m., emergency crews responded to a fire reported at the building at 37 George Street East. Known as "Parkview," the 20-unit building is operated by the Peterborough Housing Corporation (PHC), offering rent-geared to income housing.

Havelock-Belmont-Methuen Township firefighters found one apartment unit engulfed in flames. The fire eventually spread to other units.

OPP say all tenants made it out of the building safely.

A number of displaced tenants were first relocated to the nearby Havelock Lions Club. Some tenants stayed overnight at the Havelock Community Centre arena just metres away. Others stayed with other residents or were taken to the village of Campbellford or nearby motels along Hwy. 7.

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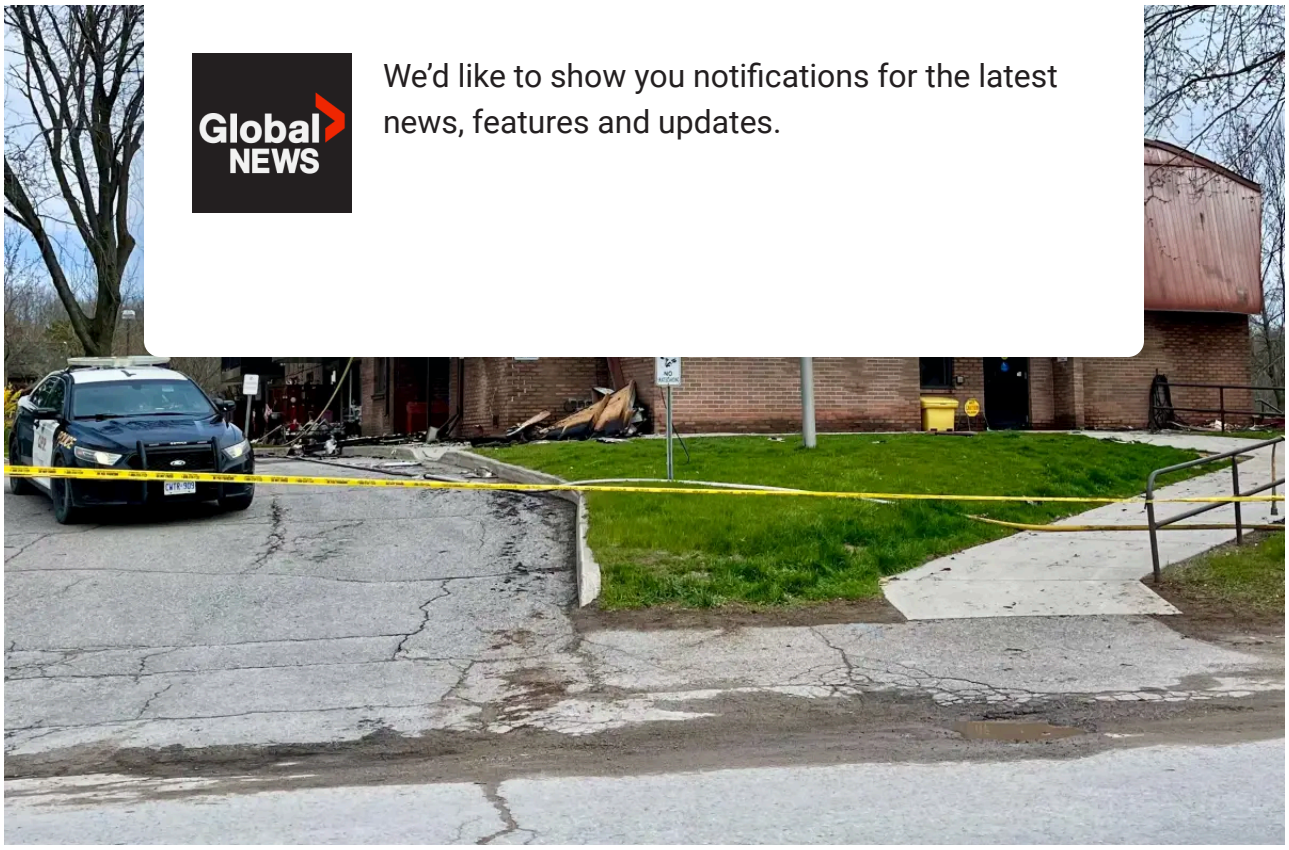

Peterborough County OPP remain on the scene on April 24 following a fire at an apartment complex on April 23, 2024. **Tricia Mason/Global News Peterborough**

Among the tenants impacted was 66-year-old Mike Flood who got out safely with his dog Baggs. He says he and a friend were watching television when they saw "particles" go by the window and then they noticed a smell, "like rubber burning."

"I went out in the hallway — and other tenants were out there — and you could smell the smoke and start to see it filling up the hallway," said Flood. "So I helped a couple of people get their cats out and that's it, down it went."

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Tenant Mike Flood and his dog Baggs managed to make it out safely.

Flood said he slept in his truck after the fire since he said no one was able to care for his pet. He was told by fire officials the building could be razed.

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Flood, wi t for
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"At this point I really don't know what to do," he told Global News. "I'm 66 and I just lost everything."

Tenant Irene Hubbard also said she lost "everything."

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"I lost everything in that needless tragedy — including my cat," she said on the **"Havelock, On" Facebook page**.

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“This has entire Havelock

“I send th want to recogniz et everyone t conditions. Thank you for your bravery and expertise.

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Lee also thanked the Havelock community and residents from neighbouring areas for their “remarkable response and support of the displaced people.”

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On its Facebook page on Wednesday morning, the Havelock Community Centre also thanked the community for its outpouring of support.

“The care and kindness was beautiful to see. We want to give a shout out to the firefighters and police officers that served our community with excellence last night,” the centre stated. “Many people came to offer their homes as a place of rest for the residents and we say thank you. Peterborough Housing was able to secure a hotel room for those that did not have another place to

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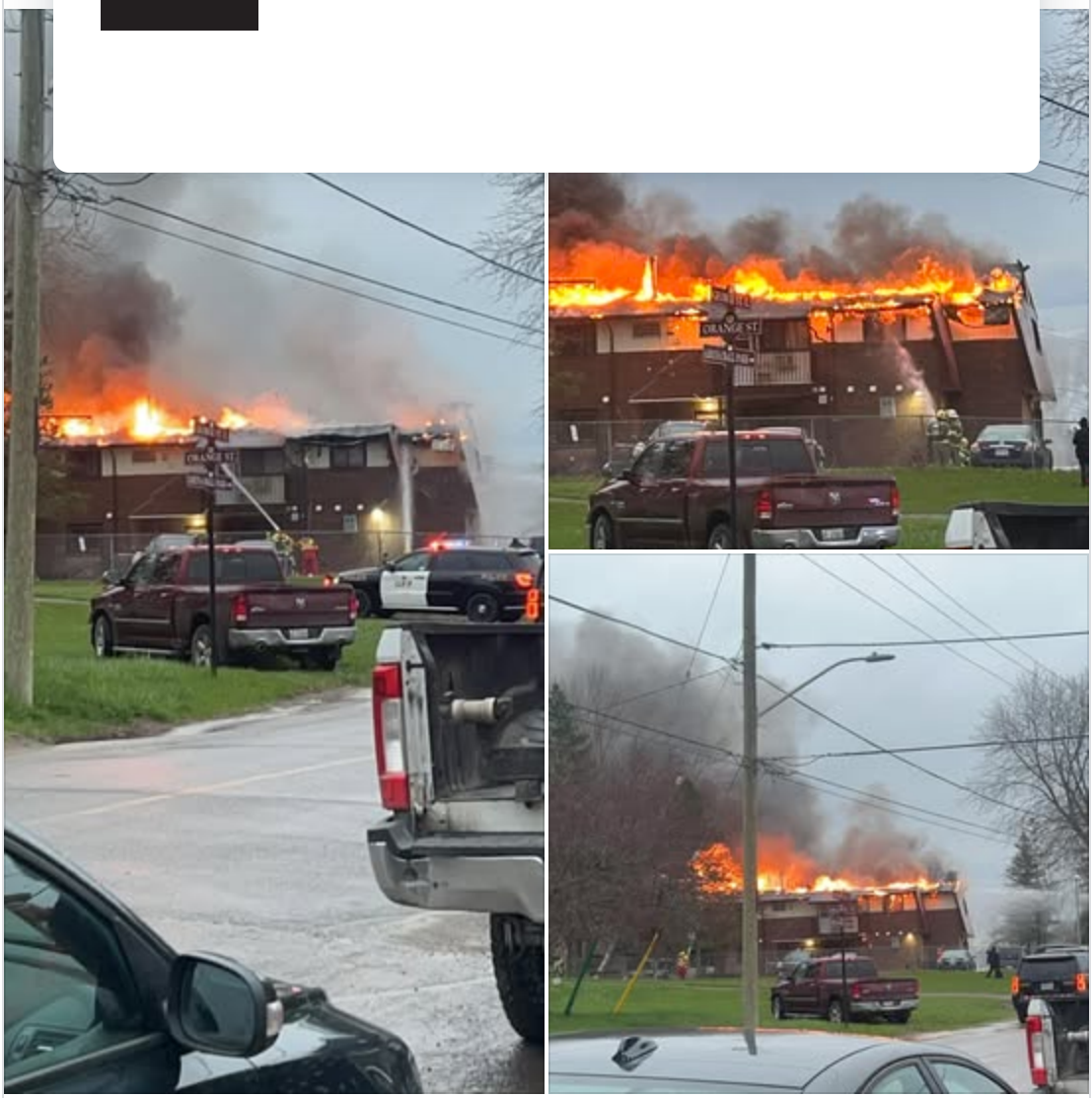

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Residents quickly gathered up supplies and food to donate to those displaced.

Flood also praised the community's support for he and other tenants.

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Around 7:30 p.m., officers received a call about a suspicious person and located the individual.

A Havelock man, 29, was arrested and charged with arson — disregard for human life, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, uttering threats — damage property and two counts of failure to comply with a probation order.

The name of the accused will not be released in order to protect the identity of the victim, police said.

The accused was held in custody and is scheduled to appear in court in

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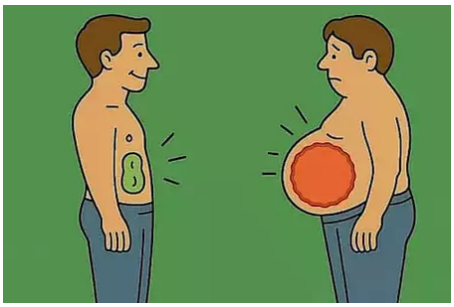

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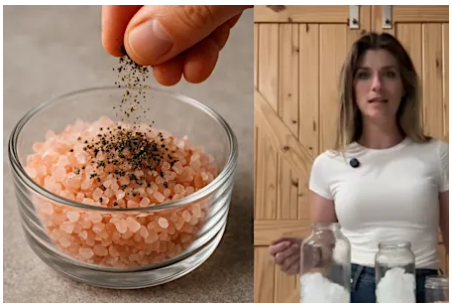

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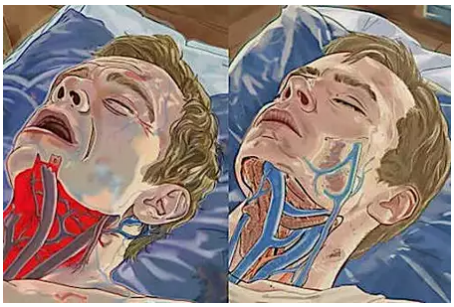

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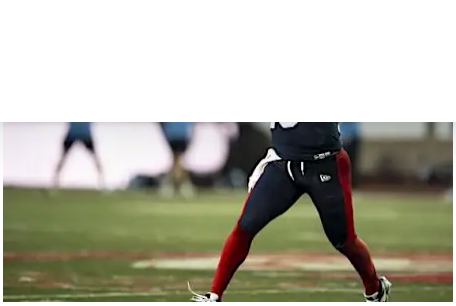

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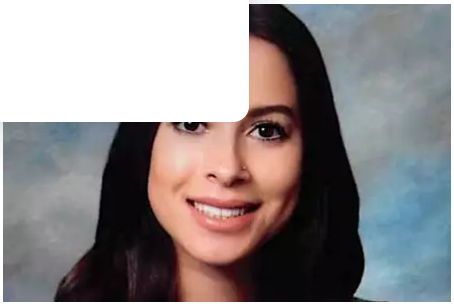

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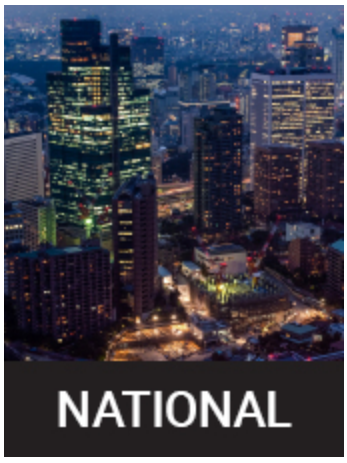

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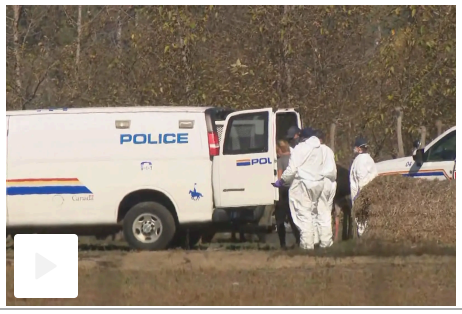

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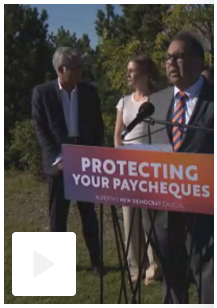

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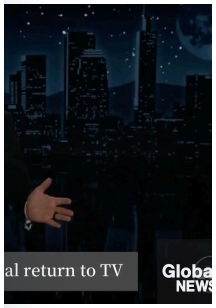

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